

## Message Text

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15 R  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 SP-02 ISO-00 /019 W  
----- 087553

R 170430Z MAY 75  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6773  
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
USLO PEKING  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DACCA 2423

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, BG, XD, XC  
SUBJECT BANGALEE REACTION TO THE INDOCHINA COLLAPSE

REF: STATE 107027

1. SUMMARY: WE SEE NO CHANGE IN GENERAL OUTLINES OF BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN POLICY AS RESULT FALL OF CAMBODIA AND VIETMAN. BANGALEES FEEL SOUTHEAST ASIA IS FAR AWAY, AND DEVELOPMENTS THERE UNLIKELY TO IMPINGE ON BANGLADESH; AND IF THEY DO AFFECT BANGLADESH IN SOME WAY, IT PROBABLY FEELS ILL-PREPARED TO DO ANYTHING IN RESPONSE. HOWEVER, WHILE POLICIES NOT EXPECTED TO CHANGE, TONE OF CONDUCT OF RELATIONS MAY. WE THINK SOCIALISTS HAVE RECEIVED A BOOST AND UNITED STATES HAS LOST PRESTIGE. WHILE BANGLADESH LIKELY TO BE MORE DEFERENTIAL TO SOCIALISTS, PRESSING NEED FOR ASSISTANCE WILL BE POSITIVE CONTRAINT ON ANY ACTIONS IN FOREIGN POLICY FIELD LIKELY TO AROUSE OUR IRE. THUS, IN END, STESS ON "NON-ALIGNMENT" IS BOUND TO INCREASE. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT (BDG) HAS YET TO GIVE ANY DETAILED THOUGHT TO POLICY CHANGES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE FALL OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. REMARKS OF FOREIGN SECRETARY TO AMBASSADOR REPORTED DACCA 2315 PROBABLY SUM UP BANGALEE REACTION TO DATE: BANGLADESH WANTS A SOUTHEAST ASIA IN WHICH NATIONS ARE NON-ALIGNED AS BETWEEN THE EAST AND THE WEST AND AS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION. MOREOVER, IT WILL WISHFULLY TEND TO ACCEPT ANY INDICATIONS THAT THIS IS THE CASE BECAUSE SUCH A RESULT SERVES TO BUTTRESS BANGLADESH'S OWN BELIEF IN AND COMMITMENT TO "NON-ALIGNMENT".

3. PRIMARY FACTOR IN BDG THINKING AS IT PROCEEDS INITIALLY WILL BE REMOTENESS, IN BANGALEE EYES, OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. AS RESULT, IT WILL TEND TO CONCLUDE THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT REGION CAN IMPINGE ONLY SLIGHTLY ON BANGLADESH AND ITS INTERESTS, THAT PRG AND GRUNK VIEW BANGLADESH FAVORABLY AS RESULT BDG'S RECOGNITION OF BOTH TWO YEARS AGO, AND THAT, IN ANY EVENT, BANGLADESH WILL HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HOWEVER, ONE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS NOTED BANGLADESH WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT REACTION OF ASEAN COUNTRIES. THIS REFLECTS TWO ASPECTS OF BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN POLICIES: FIRST, IDENTIFICATION AS A "NON-ALIGNED" COUNTRY WITH ASEAN'S "ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY", AND SECOND, DESIRE FOR CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH MUSLIM MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA IN PROMOTION OF "ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY". (THE LATTER IS SEEN AS IMPORTANT IN AIDING RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES WITH PAKISTAN AND IN PROMPTING GENEROSITY FROM OIL-RICH ARABS.)

4. BDG APPARENTLY SEES NO EARLY THREAT TO ITS SECURITY ARISING OUT OF FALL OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. REASONS ARE BANGALEE PERCEPTION OF DISTANCE SEPARATING BANGLADESH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA AND CONCLUSION THAT RECOGNITION OF PRG AND GRUNK PLACES BANGLADESH ON PROPER SIDE. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, FOUND SOME SMALL RECOGNITION THAT FALL OF LAOS COULD ADD TO INSURGENCY PROBLEMS WHICH BURMA CONFRONTS, AND THAT THESE COULD HAVE SPILL-OVER EFFECT. THERE APPEARS BE NO THOUGHT PRESENTLY BEING GIVEN TO POSSIBILITY THAT INDIA-PROBLEMS IN MIZORAM AND NAGALAND MAY BE INCREASED AS RESULT COLLAPSE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. AS MFA OFFICIAL NOTED, BANGLADESH CAN DO VERY LITTLE ABOUT SUCH DEVELOPMENTS IN ANY EVENTS, AND MUST RELY ON ITS FOREIGN POLICIES TO INSURE

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ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY.

5. THERE APPEARS BE NO REASON TO THINK THAT FUNDAMENTAL TENETS OF BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN POLICIES WILL CHANGE AS RESULT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. FACTORS LIMITING BANGLADESH'S FREEDOM OF ACTION ARE TOO GREAT TO PERMIT THIS. CENTRAL ELEMENT OF BANGALEE FOREIGN POLICY IS BANGLADESH'S RELATIONS WITH INDIA; AS BDG PONDERES WHAT CHANGES MIGHT BE WARRANTED BY RECENT

DEVELOPMENTS, ITS FIRST CONSIDERATION WILL BE THEIR EFFECT ON INDO-BANGALEE RELATIONS. SECOND, BANGLADESH IS VIRTUALLY TRANSFIXED BY ITS POVERTY AND THUS MUST CONTINUE TO TAILOR ITS POLICIES ADOPTED IN PROMOTION OF ITS GOALS FIT, IN BANGLADEE EYES, SITUATIONS WHICH PREVAILED BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE FALL OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANY CHANGES. AS FOREIGN SECRETARY REITERATED LAST JANUARY (SEE DACCA 0458), BANGLADESH IS COMMITTED TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, NON-ALIGNMENT, "FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES", SUPPORT FOR THE UN CHARTER, ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY, AND THE COMMONWEALTH. WITH A FOREIGN POLICY ALREADY PERMITTING GREAT FLEXIBILITY, BANGLADESH FEELS ITSELF IN A POSITION TO AVOID WHATEVER SHOALS RVENT DEVELOPMENTS MAY PRESENT.

6. WHILE NO CHANGES IN OVERALL POLICIES ARE EXPECTED, THE FALL OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM WILL ALTER THE BANGALEE PERCEPTIONS OF THE RELATIVE ROLES AND STRENGTHS OF THE USSR, THE PRC AND THE UNITED STATES, AND TO OUR DETRIMENT. THE RECENT FLURRY OF ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, RESULTING FROM THE CONVERGENCE OF THE EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE SOVIET-SPONSORED CELEBRATION OF "ANTI-FASCIST" WEEK HERE, WAS ILLUSTRATIVE IN PART OF AN ATTITUDE HELD BY SOME BANGALEES THAT COMMUNISM, AND NOT WESTERN DEMOCRACY, IS THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE IN THIS AREA. THIS ATTITUDE WAS IMPLICIT NOT ONLY IN THE ROUTINE PRESS COMMENTARIES BUT ALSO, UNFORTUNATELY, IN SOME OF THE STATEMENTS OF THE LEADERSHIP AS WELL.

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17R

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 /019 W

----- 087703

R 170430Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6774

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

USLO PEKING  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DACCA 2423

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

7. THE RESULT MAY BE A SHIFT IN POLICY EMPHASIS, BUT NOT CONTENT. BANGLADESH'S EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ALL WILL CONTINUE, BUT THIS BALANCE MAY BE SLIGHTLY ALTERED. THE USSR MAY BE ABLE TO EXERCISE GREATER INFLUENCE, BUT THIS MAY FIND EXPRESSION AS MUCH IN DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS (I.E., THE STRUCTURING OF BAKSAL OR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED "COMPULSORY COOPERATIVES") AS IN POSITIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. THE CHINESE WILL BE MORE WELCOME THAN EVER; THEY REMAIN A USEFUL OFFSET TO INDIA AND THE USSR BUT TAKE ON EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE AFTER THE FALL OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. INDIA, TOO, MUST TAKE ON ADDED IMPORTANCE; IF INTERNAL SECURITY IN BURMA WORSENS, BANGLADESH MAY FEEL ALL THE MORE KEENLY ITS NEED OF INDIAN SUPPORT. BUT WHATEVER THE SITUATION, THE UNITED STATES WILL REMAIN IMPORTANT TO THE BDG FOR THE ASSISTANCE IT CAN PROVIDE; THE UNITED STATES IS STILL WIDELY SEEN HERE AS THE ONLY POWER WITH THE CAPACITY TO HELP BANGLADESH ON THE SCALE WHICH IT NEEDS.

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8. IN THIS SETTING, WE ANTICIPATE BANGLADESH'S CONDUCT OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY WILL REVEAL:

A) GREATER THAN EVER EMPHASIS ON "NON-ALIGNMENT." THIS WILL PERMIT BANGALEES TO ASSERT THAT THEY SIDE WITH NONE, BUT WILL PERMIT A SLIGHT SHIFT LEFTWARD ON THE SCALE BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND THE FREE WORLD.

B) INCREASED DEFERENCE TO THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, MOST PERTICULARLY THE SOVIETS AND -- WHEN THEY ARRIVE -- THE CHINESE. THIS MAY PERHAPS FIND ITS EXPRESSION MORE IN DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAN IN FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS.

C) SLIGHTLY GREATER RECOGNITION OF INDIA'S IPORTANCE TO BANGLADESH'S SECURITY. THIS WILL REQUIRE PARTICULAR SUBTLETY ON THE PART OF THE BDG TO AVOID AROUSING DOMESTIC FEARS OF INDIA.

D) SUPPLE EFFORTS TO PRESERVE AMERICAN GOOD WILL -- AS WELL AS THAT, IF REQUIRED, OF OTHER, NON-SOCIALIST DONOR COUNTRIES -- THROUGH STRESS ON "NON-ALIGNMENT" AND, WHEN NECESSARY, DISCREET SILENCE ON ISSUES WHERE WE MAY BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975DACCA02423  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 107027  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BANGALEE REACTION TO THE INDOCHINA COLLAPSE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BG, XD, XC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006